

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ E. _____

Date: _____ January 15, 2009 _____

Topic: First Review of Timeline for the Review of the *Science Standards of Learning*

Presenter: Dr. Linda Wallinger, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Telephone Number: 804-225-2034 **E-Mail Address:** Linda.Wallinger@doe.virginia.gov

Origin:

_____ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

☒ Board review required by
 ☒ State or federal law or regulation
 _____ Board of Education regulation
 _____ Other: _____

☒ Action requested at this meeting _____ Action requested at future meeting: _____ (date)

Previous Review/Action:

☒ No previous board review/action

_____ Previous review/action
 date _____
 action _____

Background Information:

The Board of Education adopted a schedule for review and revisions to the *Standards of Learning* on September 26, 2007, as part of its comprehensive plan. Accordingly, the *Science Standards of Learning* are scheduled for review in 2009-2010.

Code of Virginia § 22.1-253.13:1-2 By October 1, 2000, the Board of Education shall establish a regular schedule, in a manner it deems appropriate, for the review, and revision as may be necessary, of the Standards of Learning in all subject areas. Such review of each subject area shall occur at least once every seven years. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Board from conducting such review and revision on a more frequent basis.

Summary of Major Elements:

Using an established review process and criteria, the Department of Education plans a review of the current Science Standards of Learning. Committee members will receive a report on 21st century content standards in physics, chemistry and engineering in Virginia's K-12 curriculum prepared by staff from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center and presented to Virginia's P-16 Education Council in June 2008. Additionally, documents such as the National Science Education Standards and other reports on national and international science education will be provided for review by the committee members. A proposed review timeline is attached.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education waive first review and grant approval for the Department of Education to proceed with the revision process for the *Science Standards of Learning*.

Impact on Resources:

The Department of Education administers the state standards review process. The agency's existing resources can absorb this responsibility at this time.

Timetable for Further Review/Action:

Upon approval, the Department of Education will provide information to all interested parties according to the timeline described in Attachment A.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE *SCIENCE STANDARDS OF LEARNING*

January 2009

A Superintendent's Memorandum is distributed that:

- announces the schedule of the review process;
- announces the availability of a *Science Standards of Learning* review/comment page on the Department of Education's Web site;
- requests that division superintendents share information about the Web site with instructional staff; and
- requests that division superintendents submit nominations for review team members.

The Department of Education posts on its Web site a review/comment page for the 2003 *Science Standards of Learning*. The page will be active for 30 days.

February - March 2009

The Department of Education seeks nominations for other stakeholders and identifies members of the review team.

April 2009

The Department of Education aggregates and conducts a preliminary analysis of the comments entered on the Web page.

June - July 2009

The *Science Standards of Learning* review team meets for two days to:

- analyze statewide Web page input;
- review national documents and reports;
- review the NASA Langley report on standards for physics, chemistry and engineering; and
- make recommendations for potential changes.

August 2009

The Department of Education prepares a draft of the proposed *Standards of Learning* that reflects the review team's comments.

The draft of the proposed *Standards of Learning* is made available to science educators in institutions of higher education, scientists in Virginia, and professional organizations that focus on science education for review and comment.

September 2009

The Department of Education science staff and a subgroup of the review team meet, if necessary, to discuss and review comments made by higher education faculty and the business community and prepare the draft *Science Standards of Learning* for first review by the Board of Education.

October 2009

The Department of Education presents the proposed revised *Science Standards of Learning* to the Board of Education for first review.

November 2009	The proposed <i>Science Standards of Learning</i> document is distributed for public comment. The document is placed on the Virginia Department of Education's Web site for review.
November - December 2009	Public hearings are held as prescribed by the Board of Education.
February 2010	The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed <i>Science Standards of Learning</i> to the Board of Education for final review and adoption. The final document is posted on the Department of Education's Web site within three weeks of adoption.
May 2010	The approved <i>Science Standards of Learning</i> are disseminated to K-12 schools and local school division central offices.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE SCIENCE CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

February 2010	The Department of Education identifies a review team to assist with the review of the <i>Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework</i> . The framework defines the content knowledge, skills, and understandings that are measured by the <i>Science Standards of Learning</i> tests.
March 2010	The Department and review team members meet to review the framework and make any edits required for realignment with the revised <i>Science Standards of Learning</i> .
April 2010	The Department of Education presents the proposed revised <i>Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework</i> to the Board for first review.
May 2010	Public hearings on the proposed revised <i>Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework</i> are held as prescribed by the <i>Code of Virginia</i> .
July 2010	The Superintendent of Public Instruction presents the proposed revised <i>Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework</i> to the Board of Education for final review and adoption. The final document is posted on the Department of Education's Web site.